

TULARE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTICE

**LOCATION:
TULARE COUNTY HISTORY OF FARM LABOR AND
AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
THEATER
27000 S. MOONEY BLVD
VISALIA, CA 93277**

3:00 PM on January 26, 2016

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Committee at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public is invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for Committee consideration. Any person addressing the Committee will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes so that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak. At all times, please state your name and address for the record.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2015 Committee Meeting**
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Visalia Feral Cat Coalition Trap, Neuter, and Release**
- 6. Update on Proposed Health Advisory Committee Smoking Ban in County Parks**
- 7. Park Well Status Report**
- 8. Mooney Grove 20 Year Conceptual Master Plan**
- 9. Parks Manager Update**
- 10. Committee Member Matters & Next Meeting Date**
- 11. Adjournment**

Contact Person: Tulare County General Services (559) 624-7227

As a courtesy to those in attendance, please turn off or place in alert mode all cell phones and pagers.

Information concerning items on this Agenda is available for public consideration during normal working hours at the Board of Supervisors office at 2800 W. Burrell Ave., Visalia, CA 93291. The staff will assist in answering questions.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at (559) 636-5000.



Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

**Committee
Members**
Karol Aure-Flynn
Mike Chrisman
Carol Finney
Aaron Gomes
Nancy Hawkins
Neil Pilegard
Courtney Roche, Jr.

AGENDA DATE: January 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Visalia Feral Cat Coalition Trap, Neuter, and Release Proposal

REQUEST(S):

That the Parks Advisory Committee:

1. Receive an analysis from staff regarding the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition proposal for a Trap, Neuter, and Release Program at Mooney Grove Park.
2. Provide a recommendation on the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition Proposal.

SUMMARY:

At the November 10, 2015 PAC meeting, representatives of the Visalia Feral Cat Coalition (VFCC) made a presentation outlining the benefits they believe a Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) program would bring to Mooney Grove Park in reducing the feral cat population. In essence, the VFCC believes that a fully implemented TNR program is the most cost effective and humane way of reducing the feral cat population at the Park. VFCC proposes to utilize its network of volunteers to perform the TNR work and would assume liability for the project.

Although there are many individuals and organizations who support TNR, there are also individuals and organizations that believe TNR is not an effective method of reducing feral cat populations. In essence, those who do not support TNR believe that a fully implemented TNR program creates more risks and liabilities than it solves and may not reduce feral cat populations as claimed.

At the meeting of December 8, 2015, the Parks Advisory Committee heard presentations from parks staff, Animal Services staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff regarding past experiences, successes and failures, and other data associated with TNR programs. Members of the VFCC were also in attendance to respond to the comments provided by these presenters.

After hearing this information from these visitors and staff, the Committee asked staff to work with the VFCC on the logistic and practical details of the proposal, including any terms the County may desire in order to proceed with a proposed program. The PAC indicated at its December meeting that it would like to conclude this matter and make a final recommendation on the VFCC proposal.

To that end, staff conducted research and compiled a list of items to be discussed and resolved by the County with the VFCC in order to consider a TNR program. The County Administrative Officer and staff met with the VFCC on January 25 to discuss these items. These items have to do with ensuring that the County is not exposed to additional risk through the approval of a contract for this activity and that

SUBJECT: Visalia Feral Cat Coalition Trap, Neuter, and Release Proposal

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the program is properly managed to ensure success, should the County decide to proceed.

The purpose of this Agenda Item is to report on the County's research and current negotiations with the VFCC, and solicit a final recommendation of the VFCC proposal. The Committee asked to review two final options:

1) Proceed with VFCC Proposal for TNR Program at Mooney Grove Park

The final programmatic details of the program would be further negotiated between the County and the VFCC, and would, ultimately, be considered by the Board of Supervisors. The items that would need to be identified in order to proceed include, but are not limited to: insurance coverage of VFCC volunteers, identification of volunteers, location of TNR activities, feeding schedules, program outcomes, and management of TNR activities.

2) Collaborate with County partners for increased adoption practices

Parks staff has reduced its animal management practices over the past three years as a result of the increased feeding activity at the Park and has not interfered with various feral cat activities by non-County staff at the Park. Staff could increase trapping activities and work with Tulare County Animal Services to adopt out as many cats as possible and their proposed Barn Cat Program.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The fiscal impacts of engaging or not engaging in a TNR program are unknown at this time and would require further study, depending on the nature of the proposed program details.

Attachment(s)
VFCC TNR Proposal

**PROPOSAL
TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN
PROGRAM FOR
MOONEY GROVE PARK**

A proven method of controlling and decreasing
the size and expense of feral cat populations.

Presented by:
Visalia Feral Cat Coalition
A non-profit, fully insured corporation
(State ID# C3634049)

MOONEY GROVE PARK FERAL CAT PROPOSAL

TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN PROGRAM

PROBLEM:

It is estimated that there are between 200-300 feral cats at Mooney Grove Park and the adjacent mobile home park. The previous method of trap and removal for euthanasia has been totally ineffective and costly (approximately \$100-\$140 per cat).

OBJECTIVE:

The request is 1 year pilot program at Mooney Grove Park and surrounding areas to evaluate the effects of TNR (trap, neuter, return) on the feral cats now living at the park.

COST OF THE PROGRAM:

The cost to Tulare County is zero and it will require no park employee time. The full expense and man-hours will be supplied by Visalia Feral Cat Coalition.

INITIAL PROACTIVE PROPOSAL:

1. Survey and record all cats at these locations.
2. Capture all cats for surgical sterilization and permanent marking.
3. Sick or injured animals will be humanely euthanized.
4. Young adoptable kittens will be removed and placed in homes.

PLEASE NOTE- All captured animals will receive a Rabies vaccine (guarantee complete protection for three years). Application of long acting flea control, that is effective for 1-6 months. They will receive intestinal parasite medication to help prevent the possible transmission of zoonotic disease.

5. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished by Visalia Feral Cat Coalition to include: Feeding in non-intrusive locations, further capture of new cats entering the colony, and addressing any of the County of Tulare concerns about these cats.
6. Every 3 months a report will be presented to the Tulare County on the current status of cat population.

EXPECTED RESULTS

These results are based on other TNR programs accomplished over the last 20 years in the U.S.

1. The initial reduction should be 5-10% due to euthanasia and kitten removal.
2. After 1-2 years no new kittens should be found, meaning no growth in cat population.
3. Most TNR programs show a decreasing population of 60-70% over 5 years. Some populations have decreased to zero.
4. Equally important the nuisance factor of unhealthy reproductively active cats diminishes greatly.



Tulare County Parks Advisory Committee

AGENDA ITEM No. 6

**Committee
Members**
Karol Aure-Flynn
Mike Chrisman
Carol Finney
Aaron Gomes
Nancy Hawkins
Neil Pilegard
Courtney Roche, Jr.

AGENDA DATE: January 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Update on Tulare County Health Advisory Committee Smoking Ban
in County Parks

REQUEST(S):

That the Parks Advisory Committee receive an update from the Parks Manager on his presentation to the Health Advisory Committee regarding the decision to post public service announcement signs encouraging people not to smoke in parks where there are a high concentration of people.

SUMMARY:

At the December 8, 2015 meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee, the Committee heard a proposal from the Tulare County Health Advisory Committee to consider an ordinance banning smoking in County Parks. The Committee discussed this matter and voted to support posting public service announcements in prominent gathering areas of Parks discouraging visitors from smoking at the Parks. There are currently smoking restrictions in place for the areas adjacent to playgrounds and County buildings.

The Parks manager discussed this matter with the Health Advisory Committee and communicated the Parks Advisory Committee's interest in this regard. The Parks Manager will report back to the full Parks Advisory Committee the details of his meeting with the Health Advisory Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

This is a presentation item only. The fiscal impact of posting public service announcement signs will be the cost of the signs.

Attachment(s)
N/A